

What Is Claimed Is:

- 1 1. A method of managing telephone calls to members of a user group, the
2 method comprising:
3 receiving from a first initiating party a first call initiation request
4 directed to a first telephone number that is associated with a user group,
5 the user group having as members a plurality of wireless telephones;
6 signaling to the members of the user group that the first call
7 initiation request has been directed to the first telephone number;
8 receiving a signal from a first member of the user group indicating
9 acceptance of the first call initiation request;
10 connecting a first call between the first initiating party and the first
11 member; and
12 signaling to the other members of the user group that the first
13 member has accepted the first call initiation request.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises:
2 receiving a request from a second member of the user group to
3 join the first call; and
4 joining the second member to the first call.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises:
2 receiving from the first member a request to block other members
3 from joining the first call; and
4 blocking other members from joining the first call.

- 1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises:
2 receiving from a second initiating party a second call initiation
3 request directed to a second telephone number that is only associated
4 with a second member of the user group;
5 alerting the second member of the user group that a call initiation
6 request has been directed at the second member;
7 receiving an indication that the second member of the user group
8 desires to accept the second call initiation request; and
9 connecting a second call between the second initiating party and
10 the second member.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises:
2 receiving a second call initiation request from a second member of
3 the user group while the first call is in progress; and
4 connecting a second call between the second member of the user
5 group and another party while the first call is in progress.
- 1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein signaling the members of the user group
2 that a call initiation request has been directed to the user group includes
3 sending the members information identifying the initiating party, and
4 wherein signaling the other members of the user group that the first party
5 has accepted the first call initiation request includes sending the other
6 members information identifying the first member.
- 1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the first initiating party is not a member
2 of the user group.

- 1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein the other members of the user group are
2 not sent a signal indicating that the first member has accepted the first
3 call initiation request if the first member has supervisory authority.
- 1 9. A system for managing telephone calls to members of a user group, the
2 system comprising:
3 a processor;
4 a computer-readable medium having stored thereon instructions
5 adapted to be executed by the processor, the instructions which, when
6 executed, cause the processor to:
7 receive from a first initiating party a first call initiation
8 request directed to a first telephone number that is associated with a
9 user group, the user group having as members a plurality of wireless
10 telephones;
11 determine the members of the user group using a user
12 group database;
13 signal to the members of the user group that a call initiation
14 request has been directed to the first telephone number;
15 receive a signal from a first member of the user group
16 indicating a desire to accept the first call initiation request;
17 connect a first call between the first initiating party and the
18 first member; and
19 signal the other members of the user group that the first
20 member has accepted the first call initiation request.

1 10. The system of claim 9, wherein the instructions further include
2 instructions to:
3 receive a request from a second member of the user group to join
4 the first call; and
5 join the second member to the first call as a conference call.

1 11. The system of claim 9, wherein the instructions further include
2 instructions to:
3 receive from the first member a request to block other members
4 from joining the first call; and
5 block other members from joining the first call.

1 12. The system of claim 9, wherein the instructions further include
2 instructions to:
3 receive from a second initiating party a second call initiation
4 request directed to a second telephone number that is only associated
5 with a second member of the user group;
6 alert the second member of the user group that a call initiation
7 request has been directed at the second member;
8 receive an indication that the second member of the user group
9 desires to accept the second call initiation request; and
10 connect a second call between the second initiating party and the
11 second member.

- 1 13. The system of claim 9, wherein the instructions further include
2 instructions to:
3 receive a second call initiation request from a second member of
4 the user group while the first call is in progress; and
5 connect a second call between the second member of the user
6 group and another party while the first call is in progress.
- 1 14. The system of claim 9, wherein the instructions to signal the members of
2 the user group that a call initiation request has been directed to the user
3 group includes instructions to send the members information identifying
4 the initiating party, and wherein the instructions to signal the other
5 members of the user group that the first party has accepted the first call
6 initiation request includes instructions to send the other members
7 information identifying the first member.
- 1 15. The system of claim 9, wherein the first initiating party is not a member of
2 the user group.
- 1 16. The system of claim 9, wherein the instructions further include
2 instructions to:
3 receive a request over a network to establish a new user group;
4 and
5 update the user group database to add the new user group.

- 1 17. The system of claim 9, wherein the instructions further include
2 instructions to:
3 receive a request over a network from a member of the user
4 group to modify the attributes of the user group; and
5 update the user group database to modify the attributes of the
6 user group.
- 1 18. A method of managing a telephone call directed to a user group, the
2 method comprising:
3 receiving at a first wireless telephone a first signal indicating that a
4 call initiation request has been directed by an initiating party to a first
5 telephone number that is associated with a user group, the user group
6 having as members a plurality of wireless telephones, the first wireless
7 telephone being a member of the user group;
8 receiving a second signal at the first wireless telephone indicating
9 that a second member of the user group has accepted the call initiation
10 request;
11 receiving a third signal at the first wireless telephone indicating
12 that a call has been connected between the initiating party and the
13 second member; and
14 sending a signal from the first wireless telephone requesting to
15 join the call.
- 1 19. The method of claim 18, wherein receiving the first signal, second signal,
2 and third signal further include outputting an indication that the signal
3 was received on an output device on the first wireless telephone.

- 1 20. The method of claim 18, wherein the method further comprises:
2 receiving a signal indicating that the first wireless telephone
3 is to block other members from joining the call.
- 1 21. A wireless telephone, the wireless telephone comprising:
2 a processor; and
3 a computer-readable medium having stored thereon instructions
4 adapted to be executed by the processor, the instructions which, when
5 executed, cause the processor to:
6 receive a first input indicating that a call initiation request
7 has been directed by an initiating party to a first telephone number that is
8 associated with a user group, the user group having as members a
9 plurality of wireless telephones, the wireless telephone being a member
10 of the user group;
11 receive a second input indicating that a second member of
12 the user group has accepted the call initiation request;
13 receive a third input indicating that a call has been
14 connected between the initiating party and the second member; and
15 send a signal from the wireless telephone requesting to join
16 the call.
- 1 22. The wireless telephone of claim 21, wherein the instructions further
2 include instructions to:
3 cause an output on an output device on the wireless telephone
4 indicating that the first input, second input, and third input were received
5 by the wireless telephone.

- 1 23. The wireless telephone of claim 21, wherein the instructions further
2 include instructions to:
3 receive an input indicating that the wireless telephone is to
4 block other members from joining the call.